Installation of Automatic Machines to regulate Quality and Quantity of Coal

725. SHRI J. P. JAVALI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints from consumers regarding quality of coal and shortages are on the increase; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to install automatic machines at the loading and unloading points to regulate quality and quantity of coal to be jointly monitored by Coal India Ltd., Railways and consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) No, Sir. There have been improvements in percentage of coal despatched to consumers after sizing and weighment.

(b) Coal companies have installed a number of electronic weighbridges and converted existing mechanical weighbridges to print out facility to arrange weighment of coal wagons before despatch to customers. Railways and some major coal consumers also have weighbridges with them to weigh coal received by them. Coal companies also have facilities to analyse quality of coal despatched by them, though these are not capable of regulating quality of coal automatically.

Sick Industrial Units in the Small Scale Sector

726. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 99·45 per cent of sick industrial units are in the small scale sector; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider creation of a new agency on the lines of Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction to deal exclusively with the problem of sickness of small scale units ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) As per data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India, as at the end of December, 1987, out of 2,06,098 sick/weak industrial units, 2,04,259 units, constituting 99·11 per cent, were identified as sick SSI units. However, the share of bank credit locked up in these sick SSI units formed only 28·7 per cent of the total outstanding bank credit.

(b) There is, however, no proposal for the creation of a new agency on the lines of Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction to deal exclusively with the problem of sickness of small scale units at present.

Several measures have been taken to contain the spread of sickness in the small scale sector. Important among these are setting up of special Cells in RBI, IDBI and scheduled commercial banks. Reserve Bank of India have also issued detailed guidelines for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units along with a package of assistance to be provided to these units. State Level Inter-institutional Committees in all States have been set up under the chairmanship of Secretaries (Industries) in the State Governments. IDBI has plso introduced a refinance scheme for rehabilitation of small and medium industries. Assistance to sick small scale units is available from the Small Industries Development Fund and National Equity Fund.